

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 04659 092243Z

62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 /062 W

----- 107902

R 092206Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5445

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 4659

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: VELASCO LEADS PLEDGE TO FLAG PREVOLUTION

1. PRESIDENT VELASCO APPEARED TN PUBLIC FOR FIRST TIME IN FOUR MONTHS TO PRESIDE OVER TRADITIONAL JUNE 7 MILITARY PLEDGE-TO-FLAG CEREMONY WHICH THE GOP HAS NOW TURNED INTO DEMONSTRATION OF CIVILIAN-MILITARY LOYALTY TO COUNTRY AND REVOLUTION. CEREMONIES ALSO TOOK PLACE IN OTHER CITIES THROUGHT PERU. VELASCO RODE ABOUT ONE MILE FROM GOVERNMENT PALACE TO PLAZA BOLOGNESI AND BACK IN OPEN CAR. HE LOOKED WELL ENOUGH, SMILING AND WAVING TO THE CRUWD IN HIS CHARACTERISTIC MANNER.

2. CEREMONY ITSELF WAS NON-POLEMIC AND RETRAINED A MILITARY FLAVOR COMPLETE WITH FIELD MASS AND PROTOCOLARY PRESENTATION OF WREATHS AT BASE OF MONUMENT TO GEN BOLOGNESI, FALLEN HERO OF THE WAR OF THE PACIFIC NOTED FOR FIGHTING "TO THE LAST BULLET". PRIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ READ PRINCIPAL ADDRESS CALLING UPON SOLDIERS AND PEOPLE TOGETHER TO DEFEND THE REVOLUTION.

3. ASSEMBLED MULTITUDE, NOWHERE NEAR THE 400,000 CLAIMED BY LOCAL MEDIA, WAS IMPRESSIVE IN SIZE NEVERTHELESS. THE WELL-ORGANIZED GOP EFFORT, INCLUDING FREE TRANSPORTATION FROM SLUMS SURROUNDING LIMA AND COUNTRYSIDE, WAS SUCCESSFUL. CROWD LARGELY CONSISTED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM "REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS"

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIMA 04659 092243Z

INCLUDING PRESS AND CERTAIN GOVERNMENT WORKERS, FOR WHOM

ATTENDANCE WAS A COMMAND PERFORMANCE.

4. IT IS ALSO NOTABLE THAT CROWD WAS CLEARLY APATHETIC. THERE WERE NO SPONTANEOUS CHEERS AND ONLY MINOR CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN ACTUAL OATH OF ALLEGIANCE, ALTHOUGH MEDIA PRESENTED ACT AS COMBINED SHOUT OF UNIFIED MILITARY AND ITS PEOPLE. THE ONLY SPARK OF CROWD ENTHUSIASM WAS ENGENDERED BY MOTORIZED PASSAGE OF VELASCO AND RECIPROCAL GREETING OF VELASCO AND PEOPLE ALONG MOTORCADE ROUTE.

5. ONLY PLACARDS IN EVIDENCE WERE OFFICIALLY AUTHORIZED ONES. THERE WERE NO FAR-LEFT SLOGANS AND A MINIMUM OF ANTI-YANKEE BANNERS OR CHANTS. PARADE OF CIVILIANS FOLLOWING VELASCO BACK TO PALACE WAS COMPOSED OF GOP-SPONSORED LABOR, PEASANT AND YOUTH GROUPS AS WELL AS PEOPLE FROM THE SLUM AREAS. THE COMMUNIST CGTP TRADE UNION WAS PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY BUT SEEMED TO FADE AWAY BEFORE THE MARCH TO THE PALACE. LEFTIST CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION (CCP) WAS NOT REPRESENTED. ANTI-COMMUNIST MLR, WHOSE PRESENCE AT RALLY WAS REPORTEDLY OPPOSED BY CIVILIANS IN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, WAS VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE.

6. IN CONCLUSION, THE JUNE 7 CEREMONY DEMONSTRATED A GOP ABILITY TO PRODUCE A SIZEABLE, CONTROLLED CROWD. IT ALSO DEMONSTRATED AN INABILITY TO ANIMATE THE PEOPLE. VELASCO'S PRESENCE MAY SCOTCH RUMORS ABOUT HIS HEALTH FOR A TIME, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HE DID NOT SPEAK AND HAS NOT SPOKEN TO AN AUDIENCE SINCE HIS LIVE TV-RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON FEBRUARY 17. IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR, VELASCO DID NOT RECEIVE WORKER AND PEASANT REPRESENTATIVES AT THE PALACE FOLLOWING THE CEREMONIES. IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THE EXTENT OF VELASCO'S PUBLIC EXPOSURES HAS BEEN MEETINGS WITH VISITING DIGNITARIES AND A HANDFUL OF TRUSTED NEWSMEN. IF, HOWEVER, VELASCO IS IN FACT AS HEALTHY AS HE APPEARED JUNE 7, HE COULD REMAIN THE ULTIMATE ARBITER OF THE REVOLUTION FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN ANY EVENT, FOR THE JUNE 7 CROWD AT LEAST, VELASCO WAS CLEARLY SUPREME CHIEF AND THE ONLY GENERAL AROUND WITH CHARISMA.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIMA04659
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750201-0386
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750669/aaaackrh.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VELASCO LEADS PLEDGE TO FLAG PREVOLUTION
TAGS: PINT, MILI, PE, (VELSACO ALVARADO, JUAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006